

CLAIM SET AS AMENDED:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for protecting wood and similar lignocellulose-based materials against decay and molding, ~~characterized in that the material is treated~~ comprising:

treating with a hydrophobification compound selected from the group consisting of siloxane derivatives and fluoroalkyl polymers, which improves its water-repellence, and ~~with~~

treating with a complexing agent capable of binding transition metals.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the compound improving the water-repellence of the material is used at a rate of ~~approx.~~ approximately 0.1 - 30 kg/m<sup>3</sup> of dry wood.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the amount of complexing agent used is ~~approx.~~ approximately 0.1 - 30 kg, preferably ~~approx.~~ approximately 5 - 20 kg/m<sup>3</sup> of wood.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the complexing agent used is an organic ~~chelator, in particular~~ chelator selected from the group consisting of an aminopolycarboxylic acid, ~~or~~ a salt thereof, a hydroxy acid, ~~or~~ a salt thereof, ~~or~~ and an organophosphate.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the complexing agent used is ethylenediaminetetra-acetic acid (EDTA), nitrilotriacetic acid (NTA), n-hydroxyethylethylenediaminetriacetic acid (HEDTA), diethylenetriaminepenta-acetic acid (DTPA), ethylenediamine-di-(o-hydroxyphenylacetic acid (EDDHDA), diethanolglycine (DEG) or ethanol diglycine (EDG), or alkali metal salts thereof.

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein sawn timber, plywood, chipboards or various wood composites are treated.

7. (Currently Amended) A wood preservative composition which contains an effective amount of an agent capable of

preventing the growth and propagation of micro-organisms,  
~~characterized in that it contains~~ comprising:

0.01 - 30 % by weight of a complexing agent capable of binding transition metals, and 0.01 - 40 % by weight of a compound, which improves water-repellence, selected from the group consisting of siloxane derivatives and fluoroalkyl polymers.

8. (Previously Presented) A lignocellulose-based product treated according to claim 1.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling the moisture content of a lignocellulose-based material, ~~characterized by~~ comprising using a compound, which is selected from the group consisting of siloxane derivatives and fluoroalkyl polymers and which is capable of binding covalently or polymerizes with the reactive compounds in the cell wall of the lignocellulose-based material, whereby there forms in the surface structures of the material a water-repellent film, which prevents water molecules from penetrating into the macrostructure of the lignocellulose-based material, and combining a treatment with EDTA with this treatment.

10. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the hydrophobification compound is applied before the complexing agent.

11. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the complexing agent is applied before the hydrophobification compound.

12. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the complexing agent and the hydrophobification compound are applied simultaneously.

13. (New) A method for protecting wood and similar lignocellulose-based materials against decay and molding, comprising:

treating with a hydrophobification compound comprising siloxane derivatives, which improve its water-repellence, and

treating with a complexing agent capable of binding transition metals.

14. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein the compound improving the water-repellence of the material is used at a rate of approximately 0.1 - 30 kg/m<sup>3</sup> of dry wood.

15. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein the amount of complexing agent used is approx. 0.1 - 30 kg, preferably approximately 5 - 20 kg/m<sup>3</sup> of wood.

16. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein the complexing agent used is an organic chelator selected from the group consisting of an aminopolycarboxylic acid, a salt thereof, a hydroxy acid, a salt thereof, and an organophosphate.

17. (New) The method according to claim 16, wherein the complexing agent used is ethylenediaminetetra-acetic acid (EDTA), nitrilotriacetic acid (NTA), n-hydroxyethylethylenediaminetriacetic acid (HEDTA), diethylenetriaminepenta-acetic acid (DTPA), ethylenediamine-di-(o-hydroxyphenylacetic acid (EDDHDA), diethanolglycine (DEG) or ethanoldiglycine (EDG), or alkali metal salts thereof.

18. (New)        The method according to claim 13, wherein  
sawn timber, plywood, chipboards or various wood composites are  
treated.